

Mr. Porsild concluded, "Thus at Kew there is only one specimen definitely labelled Canada. Possibly 'Gouldie' is meant for 'Goldie'."

He further reported that no Canadian specimen could be found at the British Museum.

While there is neither evidence on the sheet bearing the Douglas specimen nor any record in his own Journal that he collected this plant in Canada, both Hooker's Herbarium and his Flora confirm Goldie's collection of it here.

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## FROELICHIA GRACILIS IN MARYLAND

S. F. BLAKE

*Froelichia gracilis* (Hook.) Moq., of the family Amaranthaceae, is regarded as indigenous in the region west of the Mississippi River from Nebraska or Iowa to Colorado, south to Texas, Arizona and Chihuahua. Its extension of range eastward in recent years even to several of the coastal states indicates the possession of a roving disposition which might complicate the problem of determining precisely its original native habitat. Standley, in 1916, did not know it east of the Mississippi, for he assigned a range from Iowa to Colorado, southward to Arkansas, Arizona, and Chihuahua (North Amer. Flora **21**: 127). The seventh edition of Gray's Manual (1908) and both editions of Britton and Brown's Illustrated Flora (the second in 1913) had given a similar but more restricted range. In the 8th edition of Gray's Manual (1950) Fernald assigned essentially the same range as Standley had done, but added: "Adventive eastward to New York, New Jersey, and Virginia."

The first report from east of the Mississippi appears to have been that of H. D. House in 1924 (N. Y. State Mus. Bull. **254**: 303) recording it from railroad tracks at Despatch, Monroe County, New York, 1920, where it was found by D. M. White. Apparently the species has been collected only once again in New York, on waste land near railroad tracks at Cold Spring, Philipstown, Putnam Co., 22 Aug. 1953, by K. L. Brooks, S. J. Smith, and J. J. Wurdack. In 1929 H. C. Benke (RHODORA **31**: 146) reported it from Cairo, Illinois, where he had collected it in 1928. C. C. Deam in 1940 (Fl. Indiana 431. map 887)

listed it from four counties in Indiana but indicated its presence in five on his map. He had first found it in 1930 along a railroad about four miles south of Vincennes, in almost pure sand, and three years later found that it had spread a quarter of a mile along the track. He predicted that it would "probably become a weed in the sandy area of this part of the country" (very likely referring to the sandy region around Lake Michigan in Indiana and Illinois), but there are only four additional counties recorded in the 14 annual supplements to his *Flora of Indiana* that have been published to date.

The eastward spread of the species has taken place almost entirely along railroad tracks. Of 24 specimens in the herbarium of the University of Illinois coming from 19 different counties in all parts of that state, the data for which have kindly been supplied by Dr. G. Neville Jones, 20 were collected along railroads, 2 by roadsides, and for 2 the habitat was not specified, as is the case also with Benke's original collection in the Chicago Natural History Museum herbarium. Of 16 specimens from other states, cited below, all but the 2 from New Jersey were found along railroads; the New Jersey specimens were collected along a path and in sandy fields, respectively. All four of the Indiana localities given in Deam's *Flora* were along railroads.

The occurrences of this species in the eastern states as represented by specimens in the Gray Herbarium (GH), Department of Botany of the University of Illinois (ILL), New York Botanical Garden (NY), New York State Museum (NYS), Ohio State University (OS), Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences (PH), and United States National Herbarium (US) are summarized here. Dr. R. C. Rollins (GH), Dr. G. N. Jones (ILL), Dr. Arthur Cronquist (NY), Stanley J. Smith (NYS), Miss Clara Weishaupt (OS), and Dr. C. Earle Smith (PH) have kindly supplied the data for their respective institutions. Individual collections have been cited from only a single herbarium, but some of them are also represented in other institutions.

NEW YORK: Monroe Co., 1920 (GH); Putnam Co., 1953 (NYS). NEW JERSEY: Camden Co. 1944 (PH), 1946 (GH). PENNSYLVANIA: Berks Co., 1945 (PH); Delaware Co., 1942 (GH); Lackawanna Co., 1926 (PH); Montgomery Co., 1944 (PH); Northampton Co., 1946 (PH); Schuylkill Co., 1944 (GH). VIRGINIA: Dinwiddie Co., 1939 (GH); Henrico Co., 1940

(GH); Sussex Co., 1939 (GH). OHIO: Scioto Co., 1951 (OS). INDIANA: Knox Co., 1941 (NY); La Porte Co., 1942 (NY); reported from 7 other counties. ILLINOIS: First record, 1928, Alexander Co; represented (ILL) by specimens from this and 18 other counties in all sections of the state.—Not reported from West Virginia or Kentucky.

On 29 Sept. 1954 and again a week later I had occasion to investigate an infestation of this plant on the farm of J. Thomas Simpson in Odenton, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, which apparently provides the first record for the species in that state. Thousands of specimens were growing in sandy soil on the edge of a cornfield and among the low weeds (*Diodia*, *Digitaria sanguinalis*, etc.) on the uncultivated border of the field, mostly in an area about 150 by 50 feet, in places very thickly, in others sparsely, and there were scattered plants in other parts of the field and in an adjoining pasture. Mrs. Simpson informed me that the plant had first appeared there about 5 or 6 years ago, but had not become abundant until 1953. Their cattle will not eat it. The specimens growing in loose open sand were very well developed, up to about 60 cm. high with several assurgent basal branches as long as or longer than the stem; those growing among dense weeds were mostly simple and shorter.

The nearest railroad to Mr. Simpson's place is a spur track of the Pennsylvania RR. about a mile away, running in to the Bowie Race Track (in Bowie, Prince Georges County) and used in season for the transport of horses and their fodder and bedding. Because of the plant's close association with railroads, it seemed reasonable to suspect that this might have been the source of introduction to Mr. Simpson's farm, particularly since his daughter, Miss Marion E. Simpson, informed me that her father had occasionally brought in straw from the race track. On 25 July 1955, when I visited the spot in company with Miss Simpson and Paul G. Russell, several score specimens were found on the railroad tracks between the stables and the Administration Building, where the horses and their supplies are unloaded.

The weedy nature of the plant is emphasized by my own experience with it. I collected a number of specimens on my first visit to the farm, and must have unintentionally picked up a number of fruits on my person as well, for the next morning, in my home in Virginia, I found in my bed a number of rough

little objects which felt like small pebbles but turned out to be the fruiting calyces of this plant. They must have been carried home attached to my stockings or trousers or in my shoes, but I am puzzled to explain their transfer to the bed. They are unpleasant to walk on barefooted, but not nearly as much so as the fruits of *Tribulus* or *Cenchrus*. However interesting the plant may be as an addition to the flora of Maryland, that state has no need of any more weeds, and Mr. Simpson is attempting to eradicate it by cultural treatment before it spreads further. The railroad tracks at Bowie are sprayed regularly each summer, but it is very improbable that this procedure would have much effect on the multitude of seeds that must have been scattered previously from the plants growing there.—PLANT INDUSTRY STATION, BELTSVILLE, MD.

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## SHORTIA GALACIFOLIA IN GRAY'S MANUAL RANGE<sup>1</sup>

DOROTHY L. CRANDALL

*Shortia galacifolia* has been called by C. S. Sargent (1888) "one of the rarest and most interesting plants of North America" and since the first pressed specimen of *Shortia* was rediscovered by Asa Gray among Michaux's unknowns, search for this species has intrigued many botanists.

In a recent article in RHODORA, P. A. Davies (1955) lists seven counties in which *Shortia* has been found, one in Georgia, two in South Carolina, and four in North Carolina. No natural colonies have been reported from outside this rather restricted area and yet ecologically there are many similar habitats in other mountainous sections of the Southeast. Aware of its limited distribution, the author was somewhat surprised to discover a flourishing colony of *Shortia* along a creek in Amherst County, near Lynchburg, Virginia.

On the relatively steep east-facing bank (altitude approximately 650 feet) of this small creek, just a few feet above the water, was a patch of *Shortia* covering an area about three by six feet. On this date, April 9, 1955, only a few scattered blossoms were evident, varying from white to pale pink. Most

<sup>1</sup> Contribution from the Botanical Laboratory, The University of Tennessee, N. Ser. No. 169.